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## It's getting hot in here

**Megan Kafka, left, crawls through the halls of a housing unit during a simulated fire drill. The demonstration gave people the opportunity to crawl under the smoke in the house to simulate an escape route. According to the National Fire Protection Association, only 23 percent of households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.**

# AF officials release training plan details

**By**  
**Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski**  
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Air Force leaders have released the details about the new annual training requirements program for the Total Force.

As of Oct. 15, all Airmen will use the new “block instruction” plan that combines nine ancillary training courses into three 30-minute blocks of training, saving more than 6 million man hours every year.

“This is a huge win for the entire Air Force,” said Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley. “By tightening up our ancillary training requirements, we’ve returned vital time to all Airmen. Airmen’s time is a critical commodity as we reduce end strength while continuing to focus on our warfighting efforts.”

The new training blocks satisfy all requirements for the following subjects:

Information Protection covers information security, NATO security, information assurance and records management, as well as the Privacy and Freedom of Information Acts

Force Protection deals with protection from terrorism Level 1 training - Human Relations

entails combating human trafficking, suicide awareness and violence prevention

The three training blocks must be completed once per year in order to meet minimum training requirements. Timing will depend on when previous training was taken, or as directed by local commanders, according to Maj. Joel Elsbury, Air Force deputy chief of training policy and development.

“For example, an Airman who took information awareness training in January this year and all other Information Protection (training) in April would take the new information protection block in January next year,” the major explained. “The Airman becomes non-current in information protection in January of 2008. By retaking the complete block in January, the Airman would become current in all six subjects for one full year.”

Airmen who wish to synchronize all of their annual training are encouraged to take all three blocks at one time, accomplishing in just 90 minutes what once took more than eight hours to do, Major Elsbury said.

Airmen can access the training through the Advanced Distributed Learning Service Web site directly or through the link on the Air Force Portal.

## Halloween creeps closer, 62nd SFS to watch the streets

**By**  
**Chris Caseman**  
62nd Security Forces Squadron

All the ghosts and goblins will take to the streets of McChord Oct. 31 on Halloween night.

Extra safety precautions will once again include walking patrols of volunteers and the 62nd Security Forces Squadron to help make this a safe and fun time for everyone.

With the assistance of McGruff the Crime Dog, they will be passing out a variety of goodies and glow sticks donated by local companies and base organizations. Trick-or-treating hours for McChord housing areas will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Halloween night, and as a reminder, children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

The housing area will be cleared of all non-resident personnel starting at 8 p.m. using the Woodbrook gate until 9 p.m. The 62nd SFS would like for all housing residents to have children back in their homes by 10 p.m.

Halloween can and should be fun for everyone, whether young of age or just young at heart. Here are some tips from the 62nd SFS for a safe and fun Halloween:




- Trick-or-treaters not accompanied by their parents should stay in their own neighborhood and be given a specific time to be home by.
- Costume material should be fire resistant, easily seen at night and shouldn't pose a tripping hazard.
- Masks that can block vision should be avoided.
- A flashlight or glowstick may help children see where they are going and increase visibility as an added safety measure for motorists.
- Parents should go over basic safety and traffic rules with their children, such as crossing at intersections and walking along sidewalks and if there is no sidewalk, they should walk close to the curb and face the traffic.
- Children should be told not to go to any unlit houses and never to go into a house or accept rides from strangers.
- Children should be advised to stay away from dogs and other animals — a costume could frighten an animal into attacking.
- Children should not eat any fruit, candy and other treats until their parents inspect them. Unwrapped candy should be thrown away.
- Base volunteers should wear reflective vests or belts to ensure they are seen while on patrol.

The 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron will be at the youth center to run items through an x-ray machine to check for foreign objects.

McChord would also like to remind everyone not to drink and drive. Drivers should take extra precautions by driving more slowly than usual and expect trick-or-treaters to do the unexpected. Those who are staying home to pass out treats to children should provide a well-lit area for them.

For more information on Operation Safe Streets or to sign up to patrol the housing area on base, call Staff Sgt. Mario Belis at 982-3531 or Chris Caseman at 982-1144.

### Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		
Hi: 52 Low: 46	Hi: 55 Low: 45	Hi: 57 Low: 43

### Mission accomplished

Total McChord sorties .....	13,756
Total flying hours .....	45,822.0
Cargo moved (tons) .....	99,130.3
Departure reliability rate .....	94.6%
Mission capable rate .....	83.5%
Personnel currently deployed .....	498
Reservists currently activated.....	179

(Jan. 1 to Wednesday. Numbers updated Wednesday.)

## Don't miss it ...

### Domestic Violence Awareness Lunch

The Domestic Violence Awareness Luncheon is 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. To register call 982-9038.



# Work together to encourage conservation

By

Col. Jerry Martinez  
62nd Airlift Wing commander

As the seasons change here in the shadow of Mount Rainier, we're all a little more likely to turn up the heat a few degrees at home. As we endure the colder temperatures and shorter days, we have to remind ourselves to balance the impulse for comfort with conservation. This means enough to our mission that the Secretary of the Air Force has declared this Energy Awareness Month, and asked us to renew our focus on making energy a consideration in all we do.

As Airmen, we consume a tremendous amount of energy because of the jet fuel we burn in executing our mission. Perhaps because of the billions we spend on our flying mission, it can be easy to discount the importance of conserving every gallon of gas and watt of electricity. Yet, because of the sheer size of enter-

prise we're engaged in, small changes at the individual level can result in drastic savings, thereby freeing up more funds for other initiatives. Working together to encourage a culture of conservation, we can make huge strides toward freeing our nation of a dependence on foreign energy sources ... an achievement critical to our national security and the stated goal of our Commander in Chief.

Mr. Kevin Billings, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health, visited our base this past week and was introduced to a few of the initiatives we're pursuing to reduce our energy footprint. We were able to show him visible ways that we've reduced our energy consumption by doing more recycling and transitioning some of our older facilities to newer energy technologies. We also showcased a Fuel Savings Working Group, led by Lt. Col. Wyn Elder of the 4th Airlift

Squadron, which is studying ways of optimizing aircraft fuel planning. Finally, on the strategic level, our wing proudly supports the National Science Foundation's mission on the Antarctic Continent with Operation Deep Freeze. This mission studies our planet's atmosphere to better understand human interaction with the environment and how to preserve a healthy ecosystem. These efforts would not be possible without the sustainment provided by C-17 missions flown by the green tails.

I encourage you to do your part! Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms and offices. Unplug any unused equipment, and turn off computer monitors when not using them. Keep thermostats at a modest level during the winter months. Walk or carpool when you can ... or combine fitness with conservation when possible by bicycling or jogging to your destination. With each of us considering energy in all we do, the overall result will be a phenomenal savings in



Col. Jerry Martinez, 62nd Airlift Wing commander.

energy costs, and more money for combat operations and taking care of our people. Thanks for all you do every day, and have a safe and enjoyable weekend!

# Leadership lessons can come from unlikely places

By

Lt. Col. Michael Cannon  
62nd Aerial Port Squadron commander

Throughout the years, I've found leadership lessons in some unlikely places. Books like "Winnie-the-Pooh on Management" and "The Leadership Secrets of Attila the Hun" are good examples of unlikely leadership learning opportunities. I ran into another one just last week in National Security Personnel System Pay Pool Management Training. One of the early points in this training talked about factors for pay pool success. As I read the material, it struck me that

these are factors which help leaders, supervisors, and commanders succeed as well.

Rather than waxing philosophical about abstract theories, I'd like to list the factors and provide some very practical ways in which a leader can apply them.

The first is continuous communication. I tell my new officers that about 80 percent of their success won't be due to their source of commission, their major, their intelligence, striking good looks, witty humor, dynamic personality, or shiny gold bars – it'll be due to their ability to communicate. They need to be able to understand and help their subordinates understand expectations. They need to learn and be able to help me under-

stand the needs of their subordinates, so that I can better organize, train, and equip them for success. They need to do this all the time and it's best done face-to-face, to take advantage of non-verbal queues. "Uh...I sent them an e-mail" just doesn't cut it for good communication. Communication doesn't occur without a sender, a receiver and feedback.

The second factor is informed judgment. You only make informed judgments if you are, in fact, informed. You must stay involved with your subordinates and all aspects of your unit so that you really know what is going on. You won't get all of

See LEADERSHIP, Page 12

## Professionals of the week

### 62nd Security Forces Squadron

#### Staff Sgt. Sean Lynn

**Duty title:**

Noncommissioned officer in charge, electronic sensor systems

**Duty section:**

Security Forces Operations

**Hometown:**

Redding, Calif.

**Why he's tops:**

Sergeant Lynn is an outstanding asset to the 62nd SFS operations section. He interacts with Senior Wing leadership in contracting and coordinating security for the whole installation. He is a true professional. He has a documented performance record which is second to none and a reputation beyond reproach. Sergeant Lynn's efforts have resulted in a top-notch Electronic Sensor System Program, which has garnered recognition from all Air Force levels. He is currently the Security Forces Booster Club vice president and is actively pursuing an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. He is a hard working self-starter who consistently displays good judgment and works well under pressure.



#### Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Bartells

**Duty title:**

Flight chief

**Duty section:**

Security Forces Operations

**Hometown:**

Puyallup, Wash.

**Why he's great:**

Sergeant Bartells located a stolen truck on McChord property and found it was being used as a mobile laboratory to manufacture methamphetamine. He worked with civil law enforcement to recover six pounds of methamphetamine with a street value of \$58,000. Sergeant Bartells was hand selected to deploy after Sept. 11, 2001, serving as a Contingency Operations Action Officer; he was the sole tasking authority for 767 Phoenix Raven team members supporting OEF. He also assisted in the investigation of an armed and intoxicated individual who threatened to kill their spouse, while he completed the apprehension without incident and retrieved a firearm from a concealed holster on suspect.



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# Everyone wins with third party collections



Photo by Tyler Hemstreet

Third party collections clerk Lori Allen helps a customer fill out a TPC registration form Wednesday at the 62nd Medical Group clinic.

By  
Tech. Sgt. Erlinda Schommer  
62nd Medical Support Squadron

Ever wonder why the 62nd Medical Group front desk staff asks for your third party insurance information? The answer is that it really helps the 62nd MDG afford to provide top-quality health care by increasing our ability to buy high-tech equipment. In fiscal year 2007, with your help, we were able to collect \$481,000 – 168 percent more than last fiscal year. These monies allowed the 62nd MDG to purchase new state-of-the-art items such as a pediatric code blue cart specifically tailored for pediatric resuscitation efforts, colon cancer screening equipment and numerous multi-media items for continuing patient education.

It is also important because it helps us meet federal law and Department of Defense requirements. Here’s how it works: All beneficiaries — with the exception of active duty personnel — are required to have a current health insurance form on file indicating whether they have or do not have other civilian health insurance.

Once you complete the form, the clinic front desk staff will give you a yellow OHI card indicating your insurance status. You can use this OHI card when you check in for an appointment or when you utilize other clinical services. Patients that do not have the OHI card will be directed to a representative at the TPC Help Desk to complete a new form. The health insurance form

and OHI card are good for one year, but we ask that you notify us whenever there is a change in your civilian health insurance status.

So please, remember to bring your OHI card, along with your ID, to all future visits for your clinical services as it all comes back to you.

***“OHI reimbursements collected through the TPC Program and your help, provide the 62nd MDG new equipment and supplies, enhancing the services we provide to the McChord community.”***

Tech. Sgt. Sarah Lindsay

By providing your information, you are giving the government the information necessary to bill your insurance company. Claims filed will also help you meet your deductible at no cost to you as we waive your deductible fees and do not charge you for them. This saves you money if you subsequently receive treatment or prescriptions from a civilian provider.

Bottom line, these OHI reimbursements collected through the TPC Program and your help, provide the 62nd MDG new equipment and supplies, enhancing the services we provide to the McChord community. So simply by filling out your third party insurance information, know that you will see the returns through the services that we can provide you.





# Letter to Airmen

## Modernizing the Air Force

By  
**Michael Wynne**  
Secretary of the Air Force

Wow — we had a great celebration across the Air Force to commemorate our 60th year as an independent service. We took the celebration international, honoring all Airmen who have taken to the skies to defend their nations. We also paid homage to our own and our Joint service brethren who gave their lives, not just in service to our country, but to keep America free.

Since President Bush — our nation’s first Air Force President — dedicated the Air Force Memorial, it has become iconic in Washington D.C. as a memorial for the ages. We conducted the first wreath laying

ceremony there in October 2006 and another in September 2007 to open the annual Air Force Association convention, which was held in conjunction with the Global Air Chiefs Conference. These observances book-ended our year long celebration and caused us to reflect as we considered the bright future that lies ahead.

A few years ago we set out to recapitalize our aging fleet while maintaining the quality of life for our people and their families, winning the war on terror, and continuing to be the Nation’s strategic shield and sword. This continues to be a daunting task as we are pushed and pulled towards a future we cannot always control. We are not shirking from our goals. It is the duty of every Airman to ensure, to the maximum

extent possible, that future Airmen are equipped and confident so they can deter, dissuade, and when called upon, defeat enemies of our great nation. We recognize that achieving our goal must be reflected in the national will to have a well equipped Air Force; we must be allowed to acquire and retire our equipment whether in air, space, missiles, or cyberspace.

I want to report back to you that our modernization efforts are bearing fruit, but not at a rate that satisfies me. Despite our advances, the average age of our inventory continues to increase. However, in areas of operational availability and number of aircraft down for maintenance, there has been great progress. In terms of satellite performance and actions on the ground to minimize

outage and maximize distribution of situational awareness, there has been great progress. In terms of coming to grips with our responsibilities in cyberspace, with the establishment of a Cyberspace Command, there has been great progress. This all means that you, our Airmen, have responded to the call, set yourselves to the tasks, and set our great Air Force on a path to success.

We are investing across the board to modernize and, though the pace is not what I want as of yet, there should be no doubt that your determined efforts will result in a future where commemorations to come will salute our efforts today, much as we saluted the efforts of our predecessors over the course of our 60th year celebration. Well Done!

Graphic design by Angela Jossy



**0-0-1-3**

The medical standard is one drink for women or two drinks for men if a daily drinker.

For periodic drinking, the standard is to keep the blood alcohol level or blood alcohol content under 0.05.

*Use personal risk management*  
*Use situational awareness*  
*Use your wingman*  
*Use a friend*

**0 Drinks under age 21**  
**0 DUI’s**  
**Max 1 drink per hour**  
**Max 3 drinks in one night**

**DON’T DRINK AND DRIVE**





# AROUND THE WORLD



**AL TAQADDUM, Iraq —** Lt. Col. Brian Newberry, 7th Airlift Squadron, visits with members of the 62nd Aerial Port Squadron deployed to Iraq. Pictured left to right are Airman 1st Class Glenn Maloney, Senior Airman Josh Russell, and Senior Airman David Clark. These deployed 62nd APS members offload thousands of pounds of cargo from aircraft daily to support the OIF mission.



**MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan —** Members of 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron upload a variant of the new anti-IED vehicles for delivery to OEF. Pictured left to right are Master Sgt. Anthony Blanco, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Staff Sgt. Joe Trujillo, Senior Airman Steve Bassham and Staff Sgt. Matthew Calhoun, all 7th Airlift Squadron members.





Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson

**Resupply bundles are dropped from the lead C-17 Globemaster III onto a drop zone in Afghanistan Oct. 11. A total of 62 cargo bundles were dropped from two C-17s.**

# Airpower summary:

## *C-17s provide ‘best option’ for force resupply*

SOUTHWEST ASIA — The Combined Air and Space Operations Center’s airpower summary provides a daily account of the integration and synchronization of airpower. But some folks may ask, “So what? What does this summary really mean?”

You’re with a group of coalition ground forces heavily involved in keeping the Taliban on the run. However, you need to get extensive winterization supplies because the temperatures are dropping and the Air Force combat weatherman is reporting snow. What are your options?

Option 1: Redirect troops for convoy duty which means they’ll be driving on rugged Afghan roads for days, to and from Bagram.

Option 2: Call the CAOC and get Air Force airlifters to airdrop the needed supplies to your front door.

Today’s choice for the 1-503 Infantry Regiment: The Air Force conducted one of the largest airdrops in Operation Enduring Freedom history, delivering 60-plus bundles of winter supplies, weighing 82,600 pounds, to ground forces in a remote Afghan location from two C-17s. In three minutes, Soldiers had their supplies, a resupply that would have taken days to move by convoy over rugged, mountainous terrain. The airdrop spared them from having to conduct a lengthy and life-threatening convoy.

This option also had some bonus points. By using C-17s instead of C-130 Hercules aircraft, the Air Force was able to maintain their regular C-130 missions in the area. And, it would have taken four C-130s to conduct this airdrop.

The Air Power summary for Oct 11 is as follows:

In Afghanistan, an Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II conducted a show of force over Gardez by dispensing flares. The on-scene joint terminal attack controller confirmed a successful mission deterring enemy activity.

During a show of force in Orgune, Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles dropped flares to deter enemy activity. The JTAC declared the mission achieved its desired effect.

An F-15E performed a show of force in Orgune during an armed overwatch for a coalition convoy. The JTAC confirmed the mission was successful.

In Gardez, an A-10 used flares while conducting a show of force over checkpoints to deter enemy activities. The JTAC declared the mission achieved its desired effect.

In total, 37 close-air-support missions were flown in support of the ISAF and Afghan security forces, reconstruction activities and route patrols.

Eight Air Force and Royal Air Force intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft flew missions in support of operations in Afghanistan. Additionally, two RAF aircraft performed tactical reconnaissance.

In Iraq, Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons engaged enemy combatants with guided bomb unit-38s in Samarra. The JTAC confirmed the mission was successful.

A show of force was conducted by an F-16 to support friendly forces during an enemy engagement in Kirkuk.

Enemy personnel installing a road side improvised explosive device in Al Muqdadiyah were targeted with a rocket by an Air Force MQ-1 Predator. The strike was assessed as successful by the JTAC.

An F-16 Fighting Falcon performed a show of force to deter enemy activities and violence in the area of a building in Nasiriyah being used as an enemy meeting place. The JTAC confirmed that the desired result was achieved.

In total, coalition aircraft flew 61 close-air-support missions for Operation Iraqi Freedom. These missions supported coalition ground forces, protected key infrastructure, provided overwatch for reconstruction activities and helped to deter and disrupt terrorist activities.

Twenty-two Air Force and Navy ISR aircraft flew missions in support of operations in Iraq. Additionally, five Air Force and Navy aircraft performed tactical reconnaissance.

Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft and C-17 Globemaster IIIs provided intra-theater heavy airlift support, helping to sustain operations throughout Afghanistan, Iraq and the Horn of Africa.

Some 157 airlift sorties were flown, 368 tons of cargo were delivered and 3,758 passengers were transported. Airlift included approximately 52,480 pounds of troop re-supply air-dropped in Afghanistan.

Coalition C-130 crews from Canada and Japan flew in support of operations in Afghanistan or Iraq.

On Oct. 10, Air Force and RAF aerial refueling crews flew 51 sorties and off-loaded approximately 3.1 million pounds of fuel to 270 receiving aircraft.



# Recruiting remains AF top priority

By

Staff Sgt. Monique Randolph

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Despite an increasingly challenging recruiting environment, the Air Force reached its 2007 enlisted recruiting goals by 100 percent, bringing in 27,801 new Airmen during the past fiscal year.

“The Air Force maintains high standards for recruits in (regard to) aptitude, medical (condition) and personal conduct,” said Brig. Gen. Suzanne M. Vautrinot, commander of Air Force Recruiting Service. “Nearly 99 percent of the enlisted force has a high school diploma, and 78.6 percent scored above average on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test.”

Air Force recruiting faces some challenges, but it will not compromise the quality of Airmen recruited into the Air Force, General Vautrinot added.

“(Recruiting) is not easy in today’s environment,” General Vautrinot said during her visit to the Pentagon Oct. 9. “Right now, our economy is strong, unemployment is low and quality people have many options besides military service. As a result, the likelihood that 16- to 24-year-olds will consider military service, as well as the likelihood that major influencers such as family members, teachers or coaches will encourage military service have decreased.”

Additionally, due to Air Force-wide cuts in manpower, the number of recruiters has decreased significantly over the past five years and will continue to draw down in the coming year, she said.

As of Oct. 1, the Air Force had already achieved 35 percent of its 2008 recruiting goal of 28,700 Airmen. General Vautrinot attributes this success to the recruiters.

“I’ve very proud of the job our recruiters are doing,” she said. “Recruiting is a face-to-face job, and they know that if they are honest with the recruits and tell them exactly what to expect, those recruits will go into the Air Force and have a great experience.”

The new Airmen become a valuable asset to Air Force recruiting.

“Then they call home and tell their friends and families,” she said. “We get a majority of our recruits through word of mouth from Airmen who have exactly the experience they were promised. It’s all about keeping promises.”

## Airman magazine now available online

SAN ANTONIO — The F-22 Raptor is coming into its own, flying high and turning heads. Its pilots and maintainers are discovering just how much the stealth jet can do.

The Airmen are finding there is no other aircraft that even comes close to matching the Raptor’s capabilities — the new benchmark for fifth-generation fighter jets.

Even more futuristic is the never-ending battle Airmen are waging in cyberspace. This new breed of Airmen is learning to dominate cyberspace so other Airmen can complete their missions in the war on terrorism.

These are just two of the stories in the Fall 2007 issue of Airman magazine, now available in print and online.

Here is the full list of feature stories in this issue:

**Raptor Rapture**

With the F-22 Raptor now fully operational, pilots and maintainers are discovering just how awesome the stealth fighter is and what it can do.

**Deciphering Cyberspace**

A new breed of Airmen warriors is learning to dominate cyberspace.

**Drug War Sentries**

Keeping tabs on illegal drug runners is a team affair.

**Medal for Mettle**

Air Force awards combat medal for the first time.

**Glimpses of Humanity**

There’s blood, death and dying all around nurses in a war zone. But glimpses of humanity shine through the gloom.

**Getting Sere-ious**

Fairchild team teaches Airmen how to stay alive behind enemy lines.

Airman Magazine can be accessed online at [www.af.mil/news/airman](http://www.af.mil/news/airman).

*(Article courtesy of Air Force Print News.)*

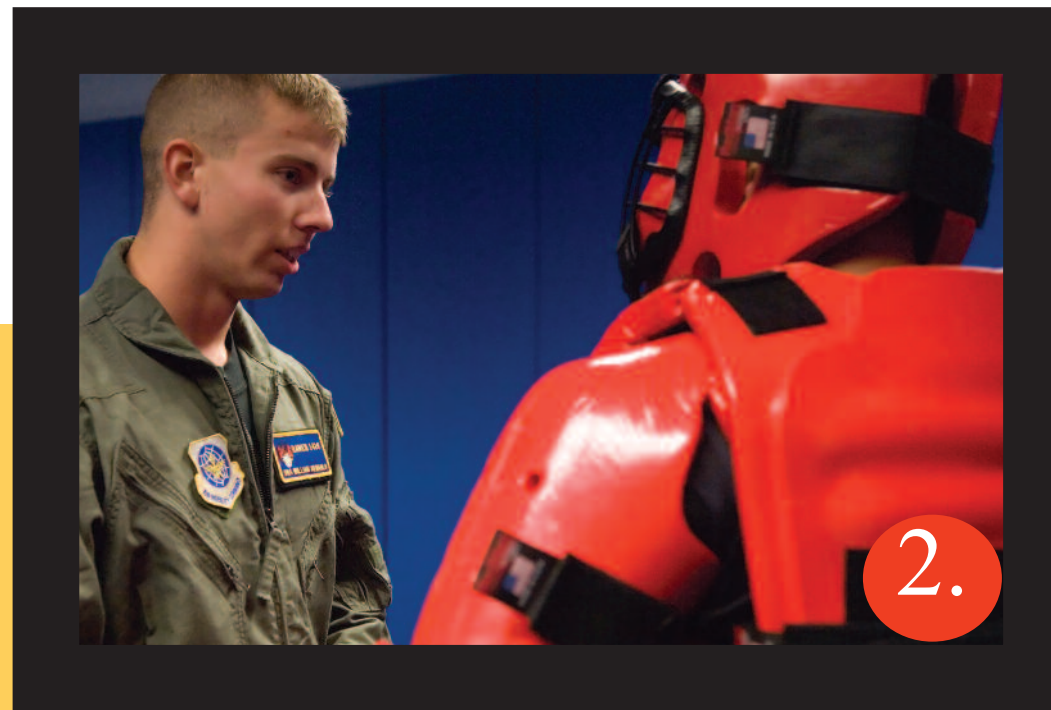


# Ravens

— more than just watchdogs for C-17s



Photos by Abner Guzman



Pictures 1-4: Airman 1st Class William Skwarlo, left, and Senior Airman Isidro Mazuca, both 62nd Security Forces Squadron, demonstrate a possible real world scenario as part of a training exercise.

Pictures 5-6: Airman Skwarlo inspects his gear in the Ravens equipment room.



By  
Tyler Hemstreet  
Staff writer

The 62nd Security Forces Squadron's Ravens have a strong bond with the C-17 Globemaster III. They spend countless hours flying on C-17s to countries all over the world. Once touching down at oftentimes austere, rundown airfields, Ravens watch the aircraft until it leaves, constantly surveying and checking out those who come in contact with it.

"The aircraft is our primary responsibility," said Senior Airman Isidro Mazuca, a Raven with the 62nd SFS.

Teams of Ravens accompany aircrews on missions to certain specified locations throughout the world to provide security detail to the aircraft and its cargo while it is on the ground in foreign land, said Staff Sgt. Clay Greenwell, 62nd SFS.

"Sometimes at the airfields where we land there's no barbed wire and big holes in the fences surrounding the airfield," Sergeant Greenwell said. "They send us in there because there is a lack of, or inadequate, security."

While aircrews usually spend the night in accommodations in the surrounding areas, Ravens stay with the aircraft. That means one person sits in the cargo bay of the aircraft keeping watch all the time while other Ravens sit in

an airfield vehicle on the flightline, Sergeant Greenwell said.

"The guys on the flightline watch the various avenues of approach and keep a 360 degree view of the aircraft at all times," he said. "We have one of our guys on the aircraft at all times."

The long shifts watching the aircraft can be tough to endure, especially when extreme cold or hot weather and mosquitoes are thrown into the mix, Sergeant Greenwell said.

But before Ravens even leave U.S. soil, they are put through lots of training and preparation for each mission they fly.

The group attends intelligence briefings on the safe and dangerous areas surrounding the airfields, the local customs of the country they'll

be flying to and what the mission entails.

"Certain traditional customs in our culture might offend those working at the airfield," Airman Mazuca said. "We're about building relations with the country and establishing a good rapport with those working at the airfield."

Observing foreign customs can include everything from shaking hands with the left hand to Ravens bringing a set of casual clothes with them to change into when getting off the aircraft, Airman Mazuca said.

Beyond being totally engaged with the aircraft, the Ravens also interact with the crew. They can advise the accompanying aircrew members on force protection measures outside

the aircraft, said Airman Mazuca.

Ravens also help with routine duties on the aircraft, such as pushing pallets and loading cargo.

All the flying and extreme concentration Ravens put into each mission — added to the fact each team can be tasked with a mission on just three hours notice — can take a toll on each member.

"[Everything] can wear on your body; that's why we do physical training all the time," Sergeant Greenwell said. "You have to be mentally and physically prepared to work."

It all just comes with the territory when protecting one of Air Mobility Command's biggest assets.



# Robins officer makes splash with AF swim team

By

Kendahl Johnson

78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — When not crunching numbers as a budget analyst, one Air Force first lieutenant is busy making a splash in the pool.

Ryan Fitzgerald, former team captain for the Air Force Academy swim team was recently selected for the Air Force swim team.

Fitzgerald, who specialized in long distance events, is a member of the Robins Air Force Base 78th Comptroller Squadron.

In September, following a week of training at Sembach Air Base, Germany, he competed against members of several European air forces in Eindhoven, Holland.

Fitzgerald took second in the 400-meter freestyle, but that was just the icing on the cake. He said the best part was just being able to travel overseas to compete. He said his sport has allowed him to see other parts of the world he'd otherwise never see.

"It's always been a joy of mine to travel and rep-

resent the Air Force when I can," he said.

"Swimming has definitely given me that opportunity. Because of swimming, I've been able to see a lot of interesting places around the world. I feel a great admiration to the Air Force for giving me the opportunity to travel to places like Germany and Holland to compete against other air forces."

Fitzgerald helped the Air Force team finish in second place at the international competition, the best the men's team has done in numerous years, said Steve Lowe of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe sports.

Fitzgerald said training is tough, but worth it.

"The training schedule is so demanding," he said. "To compete at such a high level, you really have to commit yourself to 10 to 11 practices a week. You have to practice Monday through Friday, once in the morning and once in the evening and again on Saturday for three or four hours. To be able to keep up that schedule is very challenging."

Fitzgerald said his background in swimming and his ability to train so rigorously has benefited him in his duties as an Air Force officer.

"Growing up as a high school and collegiate athlete has definitely paid huge dividends for me in the military," he said. "When we do our early



Photo by Sue Sapp

**Ryan Fitzgerald, former team captain for the Air Force Academy swim team was recently selected for the Air Force swim team.**

morning physical training sessions or when we have to do a week-long exercise where we are running 24-hour operations, it really wears on your body. Swimming has taught me endurance and keeps me in good physical shape, which allows me to perform my duties for the Air Force at a high level."





# AFSOC Airman readies for rugby’s wrath



Courtesy photo

**2nd Lt. Daniel Griffin, 27th Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron, tries to get his hands on the ball during a rugby game.**

**By**  
**Airman Elliott Sprehe**  
27th Special Operations Wing  
Public Affairs

CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, N.M.  
— The grass feels soft on your face as you lay there peacefully, until suddenly, someone’s cleat-covered foot scrapes down your unprotected side, awakening you to the game in which you find yourself—that game is rugby, and it’s no flag football game.  
No stranger to the game, 2nd Lt. Daniel Griffin, 27th Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron, will soon be on the Air Force team in the upcoming Armed Forces 2007 Rugby Tournament starting Oct. 19 at Camp Lejeune, N.C.  
“I’ve been playing about four and half years now. I first got into it when I went to the Air Force Academy,” said Lieutenant Griffin.

In the beginning, Lieutenant Griffin had no idea about the game  
“What’s rugby?” asked then-cadet Griffin, a question that was soon answered when he played on the AF Academy’s rugby team for the duration of his schooling.  
When he first started playing, Lieutenant Griffin said he used the skills he learned playing football and wrestling to help him get a grasp on rugby, something that would help him learn the basic fundamentals of the game.  
“The players and coaches helped to transition me into understanding the rules of rugby,” said the lieutenant. “It’s like soccer with hockey rules involved.”  
Rugby has 13 or 15 players per team, depending on the rules. The center player during a scrum is called the hooker. A scrum is where teams push against each other for possession of the ball.  
One of the biggest differences

about playing rugby is the lack of any protective equipment or padding.  
You can use a mouth guard, a skullcap, and a light shoulder pad to absorb some of the damage, but that’s about it,” said Lieutenant Griffin.  
“In football you can hear shoulder pads on shoulder pads and hear a loud plastic pop,” said the Lieutenant. “In rugby I’ve heard a few of those where it’s bone on bone.”  
“Freshman year I was playing a tournament and took a knee to the head and had a two and a half to three-inch incision on my head that got stitched up on the sideline.”  
After learning the ups and downs of the game over the years Lieutenant Griffin would come to find himself on the Air Force rugby team this year. The AF team is set to defend its title against the other services in the upcoming tournament.





the necessary information by reading e-mails all day. Get out and talk to people. One of my first supervisors introduced me to the miracle tool of MBWA—Management by Walking Around. For years I thought the guy spent a third of his day sampling coffee from each of the pots in the squadron. Little did I know it at the time, but he was gathering critical information to better make informed decisions. Once I got to know him better, I realized he didn’t even like coffee, he just used that as an excuse to make informal visits to the different sections. The more information he had, the greater the possibility of him making the correct decision.

The third factor, setting appropriate standards of conduct, ensures that your subordinates know what is expected of them ... assuming you communicated this well. The best way to establish and communicate these standards is through initial formal feedback. It’s not just a good idea, it’s the law. We are required to provide expectation feedback to our military and civilian employees early in each rating cycle. Don’t waste this opportunity or your subordinates’ time by just going through the motions. Tell them, verbally and in writing, what you expect.

Of course, setting the appropriate standards of conduct means nothing if you don’t have the fourth factor — ethical behavior. You must exemplify the standards you set. “Do as I say, not as I do” has never been a successful leadership motto.

Fifth, practice fairness and consistency. Fairness and consistency doesn’t necessarily mean you treat every one exactly the same, using a cookie-cutter approach to every situation, but that you treat everyone as a unique individual and use the same set of criteria when making decisions. These criteria should be communicated through the standards of conduct you set and the ethical behavior you exhibit.

The sixth and final factor is shared understanding. Well-communicated standards, fairly and consistently applied by an ethical and informed leader, help build that vision. Both you and your subordinates need to be singing off the same sheet of music. When the entire unit has the same vision, it’s amazing how much that group can accomplish ... it’s the difference between a bunch of dogs barking and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

## Listen up shutterbugs!

The Northwest Airlifter is looking for people to submit sports photos from the McChord intramural sports season currently going on.

If you go to the games and cheer your squadron team on, then snap some photos in the meantime.

We're looking for ***dynamic action shots*** (please, no posed photos). To submit photos, e-mail them to *northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil*.



Free



**Hayden Gaiser sleeps quietly in a pumpkin patch during the 10th Airlift Squadron's Fall Festival and going away party Saturday at Holiday Park here. Hayden is the son of Capt. Jamie Gaiser, 10th AS and wife Jessica.**



# LRS Airman awarded Combat Action Medal

By

Tyler Hemstreet

Staff writer

Master Sgt. Charles Jost, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, is living proof that McChord Airmen are not only fighting the Global War on Terror through the air, but on the ground as well.

Col. Jerry Martinez, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, presented Sergeant Jost with the Air Force Combat Action Medal Tuesday at Bldg. 761 for his actions in Iraq during a deployment in February 2005.

Sergeant Jost is the first Airman in the 62nd AW to receive the Combat Action Medal. Sergeant Jost was wounded by a roadside pressure-det- onated bomb while riding with a con- voy on a routine night mission.

“All I remember was that I didn’t hear a noise,” said Sergeant Jost, who was acting as assistant convoy commander and sitting in the

Humvee’s passenger seat — a mere two feet from the bomb when it deto- nated. “I thought my head was going to explode — things were going 100 miles per hour. As soon as it hap- pened I just remember reaching for my legs to make sure they were still there and then calling for my guys to see if everyone was OK.”

After seeing something in the road, Sergeant Jost said the driver of the Humvee swerved to miss the bomb and the right front tire of the truck struck the device.

“The guys behind us came up and said they thought we were all dead,” Sergeant Jost said. “They were laugh- ing when they found out we were alive because they were so happy.”

Soldiers told Sergeant Jost that the Humvee hit the bomb perfectly, as the engine absorbed the majority of the blast. Initially, Sergeant Jost didn’t even know he had been struck with a piece of shrapnel.

“It started out as a burning in my hip. That’s what I initially felt,” he said.

A piece no bigger than a quarter had shot through the door jam, through his pants, cold weather gear and under- body armor and lodged in Sergeant Jost’s hip.

“It found a sweet spot,” he said.

After getting medical attention for his wound, Sergeant Jost was right back out leading convoys.

“Him being awarded the medal highlights the direct impact and dan- ger that our LRS Airmen are in out there,” said Maj. Manuel Perez, 62nd LRS operations officer. “Our Airmen are taking increased risks that put them in harm’s way.”

Major Perez praised Sergeant Jost’s leadership skills and his outstanding character for allowing him to do well in combat. Sergeant Jost said he hopes to use his combat experience as a teaching tool to help young Airmen prepare for life in the desert during a deployment.

“I’m living proof to younger guys to trust your leadership and training and you’ll be OK,” he said.



Photo by Tyler Hemstreet

**Col. Jerry Martinez, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, left, presents Master Sgt. Charles Jost, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, the Combat Action Award at a ceremony Tuesday at Bldg. 761.**





ID card section closure

The Customer Service and ID Card Sections of the Military Personnel Flight located in Bldg. 100 will be closed Wednesday and Thursday for routine maintenance and upgrades to the DEERS / ID card computer system. If you have an ID card emergency (i.e., Expired, Lost or Stolen ID card) during this time, please call 982-2543 and a Customer Service Representative will be able to direct you to the nearest ID card issuing facility. The office will be back to normal operations Friday.

Awareness luncheon

There will be a domestic violence awareness luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. A lunch buffet includes deli meats, seasonal fruit, salad, cookies and brownies and a selection of beverages. The cost is \$12.10 for Club members, \$14.10 for non-Club members. The featured speaker for the event is Mr. Lane Judson. For more information and to register, call 982-9038 or 982-9043.

Halloween haunted forest

There will be a haunted forest from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Oct. 27, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Oct. 29-30, and starting at 7 p.m. Oct. 31 at the intersection of Lincoln and Outer Drive. There will be a kid-friendly version the first hour of every night. The cost for the event is \$3, children age five and under are free. For more information, call Airman 1st Class Brandon Hartline at 982-2482.

Quarterly awards luncheon

The Team McChord quarterly awards luncheon will be at 11 a.m. Nov. 1 at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. Prices will be the following: \$10 for club and \$12 for non-club members for the turkey croissant sandwich and mixed fruit, \$9 for club members and \$11 for non-club members for chicken caesar salad, \$8 for club members and \$10 for non-club members for the regular caesar salad. Reservations for seats to the luncheon need to be purchased by Oct. 26. Please contact your unit first sergeant or designated repre-

sentative for tickets. For more information, call Master Sgt. Bill Baker at 982-5890 or Master Sgt. Ed Perry at 982-5107.

Holiday portraits event

McChord annual holiday portraits event will be from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 1 at the Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746. Singles, families and domestic pets are welcome. The portraits are done on a first come, first served basis with no sign-up required. Two free 5x7 photos and a CD. For more information, call 982-2695.

Retiree appreciation day

McChord's annual retiree appreciation day and health fair will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m Nov. 24 at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. The event will feature a health fair offering a wide range of medical and health services including flu shots, blood pressure checks, a bone density test, and nutrition and fitness classes. Resources permitting, there will be a tour of a C-17 Globemaster III and door prizes awarded through-

out the morning. All retirees, spouses, and survivors are encouraged to attend. For more information, call the Retiree Activities Office at 982-3214.

Olympic flight museum

The Olympic Flight Museum would like to thank all military personnel and veterans for their service. All military personnel, veterans and their immediate family will receive free admission into the museum with a valid ID from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 11. Light refreshments will also be served. For more information, call (360) 705-3925 or e-mail at [info@olympicflightmuseum.com](mailto:info@olympicflightmuseum.com).

NCO limited reclassification program

The Non Commissioned Officer Limited Reclassification Program allows Airmen who hold a current, specified valid skill level to be administratively reclassified back into their "old" AFSC. Contact your Commander's Support Staff for eligibility and application. Deadline for submission is Oct. 31.

